PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

216 C. DAVID STONE ROAD · PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

☐ Incident Report ☐ Communications Report / CAD ☐ Inmate Booking Report

Case 2015-22501 Printed on January 31, 2022

Status	Approved
Report Type	Incident
Primary Officer	Kristy Leopard
Investigator	None
Reported At	09/26/15 05:17
Incident Date	09/26/15 02:09 - 09/26/15 00:00
Incident Code	
Location	216 C. David Stone Rd., PICKENS, SC 29671
Zone	
Beat	
Disposition	C-Administratively Closed
Disposition Date/Time	09/26/15 04:55
Disposition Comments	
Converted Case	
Review for Gang Activity	None
Status Indicator	
Status Change Date	

Case Comments

Offense Information

Offense	980 - SUICIDE
Statute	.
SCIBRS Code	
Counts	1
Date	
Include In NIBRS	No
Completed	Yes
Entry Forced	No

Complainant

PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

216 C DAVID STONE RD
PICKENS, SC 29671
(864) 898-5500 Home

. - 980 - SUICIDE

Victim

MORRIS, MICHAEL JAMES
[redacted]/81

[redacted]

. - 980 - SUICIDE

Initial Narrative By Marvin Nix, 09/29/15 14:06

NARRATIVE IN SUPPLEMENTAL

Supplemental Narrative By Kristy Leopard, 09/26/15 05:15

Initial report began at 0515.

Supplemental Narrative By Zach Durham, 09/26/15 05:59

On 09/25/2015, at approximately 2330, Officer Capps and I passed out OTC medication on the hall. As we were finishing up, the victim, Mr. Morris, asked for some clean water through the door to the arraignment room. We opened the door and gave him clean water. He kept apologizing to Officer Capps for a previous conversation that I had not been witness too. Officer Capps told the victim that he need not feel bad for telling him his problems and advised him that that is what we are here for. Officer Nix then called for assistance in booking a prisoner and I left the hall and returned to the control room.

On 09/26/2015 at approximately 0230, I was working on paperwork in the control room with Officer Nix. We received a call from Officer Capps that he needed help on the hall. I immediately left the control room and got to the hall as quickly as I could. Upon arriving at the hall office, I looked for Officer Capps. He called for help from the arraignment room and I entered the room. As I entered the room, I saw Officer Capps struggling to lower the victim, Mr. Morris, to the floor. The victim was white and had a bed sheet wrapped tightly around his neck. I was advised to call 911. I first went to the hall office to use the phone and then realized I should use my radio. I advised Officer Nix to call 911. I then reentered the arraignment room and first tried to assist Officer Capps in cutting the bed sheet from the victim's neck with a seat belt cutter he had gotten from the hall office. When we realized that the seat belt cutter was too dull to cut the bed sheet, we both began trying to untie it. The bed sheet was tied in multiple knots. It took approximately 1-2 minutes to get it untied.

After untying the knot, I immediately checked for a pulse as Officer Capps began chest compressions. I advised Officer Nix that the victim was unresponsive. Officer Capps left and retrieved a blood pressure cuff from the hall office. He then continued several sets of chest compressions with no positive results from the victim. I once again checked for a pulse and again advised that the victim was unresponsive. Officer Capps then left to meet EMS and give them directions. I stayed with the victim and checked his pulse again with no results. A few minutes later, the medical personnel arrived and they took control of the scene. I stayed with the medical crew to help secure the scene until someone else arrived. Chief Hashe instructed that the scene be taped off and it was done a few minutes later by a road unit that responded. I provided assistance as was needed.

Nothing further to report at this time, case remains active.

Supplemental Narrative By Kristy Leopard, 09/26/15 06:02

At approximately 0312, I was notified by Captain Marvin Nix that I needed to respond to the Detention Center, as there had been an apparent suicide.

I arrived at the Detention Center around 0345. I was told that inmate Michael Morris had hung himself. SLED had already been notified by Command Staff. I attempted to locate emergency contact information, or next of kin information, but inmate Morris had not provided any information at the time of his booking.

This case remains active and has been turned over to SLED for investigation.

Supplemental Narrative By James Capps, 09/26/15 06:24

On 9-25-15 at approximately 2000 hours, I , Officer James Capps entered the Arraignment room to do a visual check of Inmate Michael James Morris. Inmate Morris asked if he could speak with me and proceeded to have a conversation with me till approximately 2200 hours. Inmate Morris spoke with me about many different topics. Inmate Morris stated if he could just talk with me, being that he was in the room by himself, he proceeded to talk about everything from his wife, to his dogs, to his friends and his past times of being incarcerated in Louisiana. He talked with me about his close friends he had on the outside and about playing video games from sun up to sun down. He mentioned the items he had given his wife over the time they were together. I remember him stating he bought her roses every month and a giant teddy bear for her to have company when he was not at home. He spoke to me about and apologized for issues that he had caused in the past. Inmate Morris also talked about items that he had given to other inmates that he was

incarcerated with, such items were Bibles, other books he had acquired and had already completed. He showed me his Bibles that he had received from different organizations through the mail. He talked about making various items he had made in this time in the jail from a toilet paper holder he made out of bottles of soda he received off commissary to a card table he made using soda bottles and a chess board. Inmate Morris and I have had many interactions in the past for various reason, but nothing that was alarming to make me believe he was going to harm himself in anyway.

At approximately 2345 hours, Inmate Morris notified me through the call box that his water in his cooler was dirty. I entered the Arraignment Room and he showed me that the water in his cooler was not clear, I advised him that I would get him some more water and would be right back. I returned a few minutes later with the cooler with more water and he accepted it and thanked me for taking care of it so quickly.

At approximately 0200 hours, I was doing a final walk through before I changed post assignments I entered the Arraignment room and found that Inmate Morris was not in his bunk. I immediately looked into the bathroom and found Inmate Morris suspended by a knotted up sheet that he had tied through the air vent with several knots and around the left side of his neck with several more knots. I immediately called for back up via radio and went and retrieved the cut down knife from the hall office. I removed the sheet from the vent with the cut down and placed him on the floor and started to attempt to remove the remaining part of the sheet from around Morris's neck first by using the cut down knife to remove, but was unable to cut through the sheet so I untied the sheet by hand. Deputy Durham arrived on scene and immediately began helping remove the sheet, EMS was notified at this time. Officer Durham and I began chest compressions. While Deputy Durham continued with Inmate Morris I went and retrieved a Blood Pressure monitor from the Hall Office. I returned and continued to do chest compressions as Deputy Durham checked for a pulse, we placed the blood pressure cuff on Inmate Morris's left arm above the elbow. Deputy Durham attempted to use the blood pressure monitor but victim was unresponsive. I continued with several set of 30 compressions as Deputy continued to check for a pulse. I advised my immediate supervisor that Inmate Morris was unresponsive. I instructed Deputy Durham to guard the scene while I went to direct the medical personal to the scene. EMS arrived at approximately 0220 hours, I escorted both the Fire Department and Paramedics in to the secure portion of the jail and to the Arraignment room and took control of the scene Deputy Durham stood by as I went and relieved Deputy Jessica Nix to come to the scene to speak with the Medical Personnel.

Nothing further at this time, case is still active.

Supplemental Narrative By Jessica Hamilton, 09/27/15 19:17

On the date of 09/26/2015, I, Officer J.Nix, was working in the control room of the Pickens County Detention Center, as Officer in Charge. At approximately 0200 hours, Officer James Capps called for assistance in the hallway. Officer Zach Durham responded to aid Officer Capps in the arraignment room. Officer Durham advised me to call EMS. I contacted dispatch to have EMS enroute in reference to Inmate Michael Morris attempting suicide. I then requested an update on Morris's status, from the responding officers. Officer Durham stated that Morris was unresponsive and not breathing. I notified dispatch of his updated status. I then notified Sgt. Sullivan, the on duty supervisor, that we had an inmate attempt suicide and that he was unresponsive. At approximately 0245 hours the Medical Supervisor advised me that Morris was dead. I then notified Sgt. Sullivan that Medics pronounced Inmate Morris dead on scene. Sgt. Sullivan stated he would have dispatch page staff. Chief Deputy Creed Hashe advised me to rope off the scene and not let anyone in the room. He also advised me that SLED was enroute to take over the investigation. I remained at the Scene of the Incident and logged all personnel that entered the scene, until SLED cleared the scene at 0657 hours. Nothing further to report at this time. Case still Active.

Supplemental Narrative By Chris Sullivan, 09/28/15 01:43

On 9-26-15, I Sgt. Sullivan received a call from Detention Officer Nix in reference to an incident in the jail. Officer Nix advised me that an inmate had hung himself and EMS was enroute. While enroute to the LEC, I requested dispatch notify the OIC and have him call me. Before my arrival at the LEC, I again spoke with Officer Nix who advised the inmate was deceased. When I arrived at the LEC, I spoke with Captain Brooks via telephone and briefed him on the situation. I then entered the LEC and met with Officer Nix and Officer Durham. I was escorted back to the cell where inmate Michael Morris was housed. Upon entry into the cell, I observed a W/M lying on the ground. EMS supervisor Hood showed me where the victim had hung himself on a fan in the bathroom area. Hood then showed me a piece of paper taped to the wall which displayed "Death Note." I then taped off the area with crime scene tape and awaited the arrival of PCSO command staff. While waiting on the command staff, I spoke with SLED agent Lt. Kinley and SLED agent Tiffany and briefed them on the incident. Case active.

Supplemental Narrative By Marvin Nix, 09/28/15 08:32

On 09/26/2015, at approximately 0248 a.m. I received notification of a death in the Detention Center. I immediately responded. I arrived on scene at 0335. Sled had already been notified and was en route. The scene was secure when I arrived. Officer J. Nix maintained security of the scene till SLED arrived. Special Agent Parker arrived on scene to conduct the investigation. Case is currently under investigation by SLED.

Supplemental Narrative By Bryan Langston, 09/28/15 09:00

Supplemental Forensics Officer B. Langston, 09/26/2015.

I responded to the Pickens County Sheriff's Office Detention Center where a death had occurred. PCSO Communication advised me that a male inmate was dead from an apparent hanging in the jail. Upon arrival I was escorted by Detention Officers to the arraignment holding room where the victim, Michael James Morris was lying on his back in the doorway between that room and the toilet area of the room. Near the ceiling I observed a piece of cloth tied to the HVAC return duct grate. Another piece of that cloth was lying beside the head of the deceased on the floor. The deceased had been cut down from the toilet room HVAC return grate and the cloth had been removed from his neck. I observed a red mark to the neck of the deceased. There was a piece of paper attached to the toilet wall labeled "death note" and there was two small plastic wrapped containers on a bench in the holding room. I photographed the scene and the deceased. I was informed by Captain Brooks that SLED's investigative unit would be responding. After the arrival of SLED's Crime Scene Unit I acquired contact information for Special Agent Nicholas Parker for later contact.

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CFS - Unit Response Times — Printed on February 1, 2022

CFS #	2015-00095714
Call Taker	Megan Burgess
Location	216 C DAVID STONE RD, PICKENS
Location Details	911
Primary Incident Code	SIG083 : CARDIAC ARREST
Priority	1
Use Caution	No
Primary Disposition	TRANSPORT
Beat	
Call Time	09/26/15 02:26:59
Completed Time	09/26/15 03:37:06

Reporters

Unknown (Initial Reporter)

Sex	
DOB	
Address	
Report Time	09/26/15 02:26:59
How Reported	Phone
From Phone	
Contact Phone	
Comments	

Other Names

Vehicles

Responders

Response Times

Assigned	09/26/15 02:29:02
Enroute	09/26/15 02:31:43
Arrived	09/26/15 02:35:04
Leaving	
Arrived At	
Completed	09/26/15 03:37:06

IR / External Agency Numbers

Unit Response Times

Non Unit Specific Times

09/26/15 02:28:23 | Details - PT: MICHAEL MORRIS AGE: 34 TRIED TO HANG HIMSELF COME TO POD DOOR
09/26/15 02:29:24 | Details - PT: MICHAEL MORRIS AGE: 34 TRIED TO HANG HIMSELF TO ATT SIG 9 COME TO POD DOOR 12A ON SCENE
09/26/15 02:29:31 | Details - PT: MICHAEL MORRIS AGE: 34 TRIED TO HANG HIMSELF TO ATTEMPT SIG 9

COME TO POD DOOR 12A ON SCENE
09/26/15 02:29:45 | Details - Log: Case Number 2015-002350 assigned
09/26/15 02:32:29 | Details - Status: Available - Log: 04-PC cleared from 2015-00095714.
09/26/15 02:33:16 | Details - PER DETENTION SUBJ NOT BREATHING / CPR IN PROGRESS
09/26/15 02:33:16 | Details - Log: 2015-00095714 has a new narrative: PER DETENTION SUBJ NOT BREATHING / CPR IN PROGRESS.
09/26/15 02:34:59 | Remark - 405 I
09/26/15 02:35:02 | Remark - 405 IC
09/26/15 03:01:54 | Details - Status: Available - Log: E04-1 cleared from 2015-00095714.
09/26/15 03:37:06 | Details - SIGNAL 9
09/26/15 03:37:06 | Details - Log: 2015-00095714 was closed.

-R7

09/26/15 02:29:42 | Unit Details (Details: Case Number 2015-002123 assigned) - Case Number 2015-002123 assigned
09/26/15 02:39:25 | AVAILABLE

04-PC

09/26/15 02:29:25 | Assign - Status: Dispatched - Log: 04-PC status changed from Available to Dispatched.

E04-1

09/26/15 02:32:14 | Assign - Status: Dispatched - Log: E04-1 status backfilled Dispatched.
09/26/15 02:32:15 | Enroute - Status: EnRoute - Log: E04-1 status changed from Available to EnRoute.
09/26/15 02:35:04 | On Scene - Status: OnScene - Remarks: 405 IC - Log: E04-1 status changed from EnRoute to OnScene.

E5

09/26/15 02:32:45 | Assign - E5 status backfilled Dispatched.
09/26/15 02:32:46 | Enroute
09/26/15 02:41:12 | On Scene

ECHO5

09/26/15 02:41:12 | Remark - OnScene
09/26/15 03:37:06 | Remark - SIGNAL 9
09/26/15 03:37:06 | AVAILABLE

M1

09/26/15 02:29:02 | Assign
09/26/15 02:29:38 | Unit Details (Details: Case Number 2015-011656 assigned) - Case Number 2015-011656 assigned
09/26/15 02:31:43 | Remark - EnRoute
09/26/15 02:31:43 | Enroute
09/26/15 02:36:16 | Remark - OnScene
09/26/15 02:36:16 | On Scene
09/26/15 02:41:30 | Remark - CONFIRMED SIG 9; NOTIFY G UNIT
09/26/15 03:03:36 | AVAILABLE

R7

09/26/15 02:29:19 | Assign

Pickens County inmate found dead in jail



By Nikie Mayo
Posted: ***Sept. 26, 2015***

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Sheriff Rick Clark has asked the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to investigate the death of an inmate at the Pickens County Detention Center.

The inmate, 34-year-old Michael James Morris of Easley, was found hanged from a sheet in a jail bathroom just after 2 a.m. Saturday.

Pickens County Coroner Kandy Kelley ruled Morris' death a suicide.

Sheriff's spokesman Creed Hashe said it is the policy of the Sheriff's Office to request an independent investigation by an outside entity whenever a death occurs at the jail.

Hashe said Morris had been in the county jail since June 29 on multiple charges of criminal sexual conduct.
Hashe said Morris was housed by himself in arraignment room that was being used as a cell because of jail overcrowding.

The jail was built in 1974 and has a rated capacity of 93 inmates. There are 208 inmates being housed at the jail right now, Hashe said.

Hashe said four detention officers were on duty at the jail at the time of Morris' death. A fifth officer was at the hospital guarding an inmate who was receiving health care, Hashe said.

Follow Nikie Mayo on Twitter @NikieMayo

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